

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been cancelled and claims 2, 3, 5, 7-11, 15, 16, 19 and 20 have been amended. The amendments find support at least in paragraphs [0031] to [0033] of the present application. Accordingly, no new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 17 and 18 have been withdrawn from consideration in response to a restriction requirement. Claims 1-16, 19 and 20 are under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claim 20 stands objected to under 35 U.S.C. §112. The claim has been amended to address the rejection and to clarify the recitations. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 15, 16, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,453,541 issued to Guthrie et al. ("Guthrie"). At least for the reasons set forth herein, this rejection is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In light of the Examiner interview conducted on May 24, 2007, Applicants have amended independent claims 2, 19 and 20 to address the rejection and to clarify the recitations. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the rejection of claims 2, 19 and 20 be withdrawn.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 15, 16, 19 and 20, which variously depend from independent claims 2, 19, and 20, should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 2, 19, and 20, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

Claims 2, 4, 7, 9 and 11-14 have already been found to contain allowable subject matter.

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CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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